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PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2673

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Mutsumi KIMURA

Group Art Unit: 2673

Application No.: 09/956,994

Examiner: David Lee Lewis

Filed: September 21, 2001

Docket No.: 110423

For: DRIVING METHOD FOR ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEVICE, ELECTRO-OPTICAL
DEVICE, AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AUG 26 2004
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In reply to the June 24, 2004 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

MPEP 706.07(a) provides that "a second or any subsequent action on the merits will not be made final if it includes a rejection, on newly cited art...of any claim not amended by applicant...in spite of the fact that other claims may have been amended to require newly cited art." Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,349,366) is new cited art. Furthermore, claims 2-9 and 13-14 are rejected over Yamazaki but were not amended in the October 2, 2003 Amendment. Thus, because the Office Action rejects non-amended claims 2-9 and 13-14 based on newly cited art, the rejection should not be final. It is requested that the finality of the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yamazaki. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Yamazaki does not teach or suggest a driving method for an electro-optical device that includes at least a resetting step of supplying a second on-signal to the switching transistor via a scanning line, and supplying a reset signal to select a non-conducting state of the driving transistor via a data line and the switching transistor in accordance with a period for which the second on-signal is supplied, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 15.

Moreover, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest an electro-optical device, including at least a signal to reset a driving transistor is supplied through the switching transistor within a vertical scanning period, as recited in independent claims 10-12 and 16.

Yamazaki teaches an electro-optical display device operating in an active matrix mode, including pixels each provided with a first element for selecting the pixel and a second element for supplying electric current to the pixel (Abstract). Moreover, Yamazaki teaches that the signal that is supplied to the driving transistor (Tr_2) is applied to the data line in accordance to the content of the data (Col. 10, lines 47-50). The data is defined by Yamazaki as being data that is compressed for processing (Col. 18, lines 9-15; Fig. 8). Accordingly, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest that the set signal supplied to the driving transistor Tr_2 is supplied in accordance with a period for which a second on-signal is supplied.

Moreover, Yamazaki teaches that a negative voltage is applied to the data line to turn the pixel off. However, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest that at least a signal to reset a driving transistor is supplied through the switching transistor within a vertical scanning period. In fact, the signal to the driving transistor in Yamazaki is not dependent on the signal supplied to the switching transistor. As such, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 10, 12 and 16.

At least for the reasons discussed above, independent claims 1, 10-12 and 15-16 are patentable over Yamazaki. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of these claims, and their dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 25, 2004

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